



September 13, 2010

## Warner Returning to Washington State After Leading DJJ Reforms for Five Years

Bernard Warner is returning to the state of Washington's correctional system after leading historic reforms as Chief Deputy Secretary for the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) over the last five years.

"The policies and programs that Bernie Warner has brought to California's juvenile justice system over the last five years represent a cultural shift in how we treat youthful offenders," said Matthew L. Cate, Secretary for Corrections and Rehabilitation. "As a result, the environment in our juvenile facilities is safer and more conducive to rehabilitation, which has improved public safety.

"In addition, each youth in our care will soon have an individualized treatment plan tailored to their needs," said Cate. "Research shows that approach is proven to be the most effective in reducing recidivism at a young age, which is critical to permanently reducing our adult prison population over time. I have appreciated Bernie's leadership, which has markedly changed our approach to juvenile rehabilitation, as well as the obvious care he has for youth."

Rachel Rios, a 26-year veteran of the state's juvenile justice system who currently serves as the Director of Operations was named to replace Warner in an acting capacity, beginning on September 10. Rios has



*CDCR Undersecretary, Programs, Elizabeth Siggins, Rachel Rios, and Bernard Warner share a laugh at a goodbye party for Warner at DJJ on Sept. 8.*

risen through the ranks of DJJ (and the California Youth Authority, as it was previously known) from parole agent, to Facility Assistant Superintendent, Administrator of the Case Services Unit and Director of Parole.

Bernard Warner begins his new job as the Assistant Secretary for Prisons for the Washington State Department of Corrections in October, where he will be responsible for the operations of the state's 14 adult correctional facilities.

In discussing his departure, Warner said he was proud of the progress DJJ staff have made in the *Farrell* reforms, referring to a six-part legal settlement reached in 2004. "Our facilities are more safe for youth and staff and with the implementation of the Integrated Behavior Treatment Model, we are improving critical rehabilitative services for highest risk/highest need juvenile offenders in California."

Warner, who has worked in both juvenile and adult corrections for 30 years, was recently honored as "Administrator of the Year" by the nation-wide Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, which he serves as Past-President. He is widely respected for his leadership in implementing system changes that emphasize assessment and interventions based on evidence-based practices.

Over the last five years, he has led the DJJ through implementation of six remedial plans agreed to in a settlement of the *Farrell* litigation which has improved every aspect of the Division's operations, including health care, safety and security, accommodations for youth with disabilities and educational achievement. In addition, improvements have been implemented to ensure rehabilitative programming for all youth, including mental health and sex behavior treatment.

DJJ has complied with 85 percent of more than 841 policy and program changes required to improve rehabilitation of juvenile offenders per the *Farrell* settlement. For more information, visit the DJJ website at [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile\\_Justice/index.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Juvenile_Justice/index.html).



*Members of the CDCR Executive Team applaud Warner. Secretary Cate (second from left), praised Warner for his contributions to the state's juvenile division.*